Safety of foreign tourists

79. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the total number of foreign tourists has decreased during the year 2007-08 than the previous years;

(b) if so, the total number of foreign tourists visited India during this year and during the last two years, year-wise;

(c) whether the decrease in the number of foreign tourists is due to non-safety of the tourists; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to provide full safety and security to foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The number of foreign tourist arrivals in India during 2005, 2006 and 2007 were as under:

Year	Foreign tourist arrivals in India (million)
2005	3.92
2006	4.45
2007	4.98

This data reveals that the foreign tourist arrivals in India in 2007 registered a growth of 11.9% over 2006.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Tourist Police

80. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has directed the States to set up Tourist Police in all the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that at present only 10 States have Tourist Police;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there are any plans to utilize the services of about 60,000 people who retire from armed forces for this purpose; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Kerala, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi have deployed Tourist Police in one form or the other. In some States the Ex-Servicemen have been deployed for the purpose.

Funding for Tourist Police

81. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre has written to the States to introduce Special Tourist Police to control incidents of molestation/rape especially of foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof, *inter alia* indicating the States which have introduced this force;

(c) whether the Centre proposes to fund this force; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Kerala, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi have deployed Tourist Police in one form or the other.

(c) and (d) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects and Ministry of Tourism does not finance this force.

Scheme for low budget tourists

†82. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether for the development of camp sites, Government is running any scheme specially for low budget domestic tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof and pattern of the funding of this schemes: and

(c) the amount allocated/released to Delhi and other States under above scheme during last and the current Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Release of funds for Southern Splendour Luxury Train Project

83. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received a proposal for releasing funds for Southern Splendour Luxury Train Project from Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government on the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The project for Southern Splendour Luxury Train submitted by the Andhra Pradesh Government with a project cost of Rs. 40.00 crore has been approved in principle under the Large Revenue Generating Scheme.

However, the Government of Andhra Pradesh have not yet finalized the tie up with the Indian Railways.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.